

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: No prior art is found to teach or suggest an absorbent article with front and back substantially elastic portions that *replace* a part of the main chassis, wherein each of these substantially elastic portions has *side inelastic* portions and a *central elastic* portion that touches, and the front and back central elastic portions contact each other. While providing a central elastic portion on the chassis is known in the art (for example, US 4,938,753 and US 4,655,760), the central elastic portions of these references are not part of a portion that *replaces a part* of the main chassis, nor are they part of a portion that also comprises side inelastic portions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SUSAN SU whose telephone number is (571)270-3848. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM-5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva can be reached on 571-272-1115.

Art Unit: 3761

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Susan Su/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3761  
/Tatyana Zalukaeva/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3761